

RECOGNIZING THE FORT WALTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS AS 1A EXTRA LARGE VARSITY DIVISION STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Fort Walton Beach High School Vikings for winning the Extra Large Varsity 1A Division State title at the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) Cheerleading State Championship on January 31, 2014. This victory marks Fort Walton Beach High School's 10th state title at the FHSAA Cheerleading State Championship.

Truly an outstanding team effort put forth by all twenty-nine members, under the leadership of their talented coaches, Ms. Rachel Pritchard and Ms. Natalie Schmidt, there is no question that several performances contributed to the overall title. Even weather delays could not dampen the young men and women's motivation and concentration. When they finally took the stage in Kissimmee, the Vikings excelled at the competition. They scored 92.65 out of 100 in the preliminaries before claiming their victory in the Extra Large Varsity division and before hurrying back to Fort Walton Beach High School to cheer on the Girl's Basketball team in the District Finals.

I commend the young men and women of the cheer team—Alexa Allen, Kate Blanchard, Kacie Daugherty, Amilia Dubbs, Alexus Flores, Sidney Freeman, Alexa Gaddis, Mary Gashaw, Niki Grater, Jesi Harrell, Ashley Holz, Kristin Hyder, Justice Jones, Lindie Landinham, Tyla Lane, Natalie Lawson, Kaycee Lewis, Jamie Miglionico, Cathryn Palenske, Ashley Pullen, Jordyn Purifoy, Bailey Rathmann, Cassidy Raven, Alexis Richardson, Lauren Rigdon, Hannah Robertson, Darien Shoults, Hannah Steece, and Courtney Triplett—for both challenging themselves and setting an example for their fellow students and youth in our community.

Fort Walton Beach High's victory at the Florida High School Athletic Association Cheerleading State Championship is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the team, and it is a great reflection on the entire Fort Walton Beach and greater Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Vikings for this extraordinary accomplishment and wish them continued success.

HONORING MARTIN GILCHRIST

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in the mid-1800s, Martin Gilchrist migrated from Churchville, West Virginia to Jefferson County, Mississippi and shortly after the Civil War, he married the love of his life; the union of Martin Gilchrist and Gracie Net-

ties Gilchrist began the Gilchrist family in Jefferson County, Mississippi, which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Gilchrist family has produced many well-respected citizens and five of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the family were born to Martin and Gracie Gilchrist. The children were Martin, Geoid, Joanna, Evalene and Marie all of whom served as pillars of strength for the Gilchrist family; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Gilchrist family, including Ms. Doretha McGlory one of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Gilchrist family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Gilchrist family in our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 11, 2014 as Gilchrist Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 11th day of July, 2014.

HONORING NOLAND SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Noland Smith who is a native Jacksonian and was reared in the Virden Addition Community. He attended Lake, Brinkley and G. N. Smith Elementary Schools. He continued his education at Lanier High and graduated from Brinkley High School. Continuing his education, he graduated from Tennessee State University.

Mr. Smith played professional football with the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49'ers.

He has had tenure with the City of Jackson in the Public Service Careers Department. He has served as Director of Youth Division/Allied Service Department, Contract Supervision-CATEC and Employer Service Representative.

Mr. Smith has received many special honors: Inducted into the Tennessee State University Hall of Fame, March of Dimes Hall of Fame, Heart of Gold Volunteer Award, Co-Founder/Co-Chairman of the National Football League Player Association of Mississippi Chapter and received the Jefferson Award for Community Service sponsored by Cablevision. He retired as the coordinator of the Medgar Evers Community Center.

Mr. Noland Smith is married to Gloria J. McKinnie Smith and they have three children: Nolan Jr., Tonya and Kelvin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Noland Smith.

IN HONOR OF COMMANDER ERIK FRANZEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Erik Franzen for his outstanding and invaluable service to his community and the United States of America, as he embarks on a new mission at his next command, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.

Commander Erik Franzen began his naval career in 1991 after graduating from San Diego State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies and was commissioned through the NROTC program.

In 2010, Commander Erik Franzen reported onboard the Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro as the Executive Officer. He later assumed command of the installation on July 1, 2013 and spearheaded several infrastructure improvements to NAF El Centro. These enhancements included a complete remodel of the Naval Exchange Building and the Take 5 coffee shop, an overhaul of the sports complex, installation of artificial turf on the sports field and sundry improvements to workspaces throughout the base.

As a result of Commander Erik Franzen's guidance and leadership, NAF El Centro has increased in mission capability, improved customer service to visiting detachments and seen a tremendous boost to the overall morale of the base. I applaud Commander Erik Franzen for his distinguished service to NAF El Centro, the Imperial Valley, and the nation.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOE SCHNEIDER

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joe Schneider. The recent emotion and debate surrounding immigration in the U.S. has detracted from some great stories about those immigrants who helped to found and shape this country. I would like to share a story about one of those immigrants.

Joe Schneider was born in Kernei, Yugoslavia in 1929. While his father was off fighting in World War II, Joe led his displaced family on a journey throughout Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and ultimately Vienna, Austria. As refugees, the war years were extremely challenging and although he lost a leg at age 15, he never lost his desire or ability to support and lead his mother and four younger siblings.

His family was given the opportunity to leave Austria and arrived in the U.S. as immigrants in 1951. Joe was extremely proud of his German heritage but his love for this country was something he never stopped talking about. Without speaking a word of English and missing a leg he set out to start working as a tailor. He often talked about living in the land of opportunity and how it afforded anyone and everyone the chance to start and own their own business. He finally lived his dream when